

STATUS OF CHURCH RELOCATION PROJECT

Thank you for your patience regarding the church relocation project. The last parish-wide announcement was last spring when it was announced the previously acquired land on State Orchard Road was not sufficient due to the lack of usable acres.

Around Thanksgiving time a comment was made by Bishop Pates on KVSS that St. Patrick had purchased land. Actually, active negotiations were still being conducted at the time of his statement and an actual purchase had not yet been completed.

As of today, December 18, 2013, there are still some formalities that need to be worked out with the city as well as official approval by the diocese. Assuming that turns out okay the sale of the old land and the purchase of the new land on Valley View will be completed by the end of February.

As you already know, a new YMCA is planned to be built in Mercy's parking lot across from St. Patrick. (St. Patrick has *never* owned *nor* paid rent for the parking lot.) As of mid-November, the YMCA's main director advised us that the plan is still to begin construction in Fall 2014. The director has been cordial, but during actual construction the availability of parking spaces will have to be determined at that time.

All the parishes throughout the Diocese of Des Moines as well as the Archdiocese of Omaha have been conducting capital campaigns in which the funds were split between the parish and the diocese. Our capital campaign will be different in that all funds pledged will be for our parish alone – there will be no split with the diocese. If all goes as planned, it is anticipated the campaign would begin no later than July 1, 2014.

Between now and then there will be many opportunities to learn about our current facilities and the plans of the future facility. I am currently assembling a group of parishioners to help with this educational process. For information please keep an eye in the bulletin, check the parish website, and talk with fellow parishioners on the soon-to-be Education Committee.

God's blessings to you these last few days of Advent and have a wonderful and merry Christmas!

Fr. Glen